REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 4, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the following amendments have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 stand rejected. Claims 9-20 have been canceled.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salvo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,271) "Salvo" is respectfully traversed.

Salvo describes an inventory management system that automatically monitors inventory amounts, provides information concerning inventory, and decides if an order for replacement inventory should be placed. The system includes a storage receptacle for inventory, an amount indicator for monitoring and reporting the level of current inventory, an inventory price source, and a controller for receiving information from different inventory suppliers and for integrating such information with information on current inventory amounts and estimated future use to decide if an order for replacing inventory should be made. An order is placed automatically to a supplier and the progress for the delivery of replacement inventory is automatically monitored.

Claim 1 recites a web-based supply chain system for improving business productivity including "a database comprising historical business information relating to one of a turbine engine and a turbine engine component . . . a server comprising at least one business transactional application including a plurality of user interfaces associated with said at least one business transactional application, said server configured to prompt a user to enter business information relating to one of the turbine engine and the turbine engine component via at least one of said plurality of user interfaces, said server configured to store user inputs relating to one of a turbine engine and a turbine component in said database . . . prompt a user to access and retrieve said at least one business transactional application via a web page configured to provide access for a plurality of users internal to a business entity and to users external to the business entity to enable users to access data comprising at least one non-conformance that occurs during at least one of an assembly and test stage and a component manufacturing stage of a supply chain process . . . and prompt a user to select data relating to

at least one of the turbine engine and the turbine engine component via said web page . . . at least one computer . . . and a network coupling said at least one computer to said server."
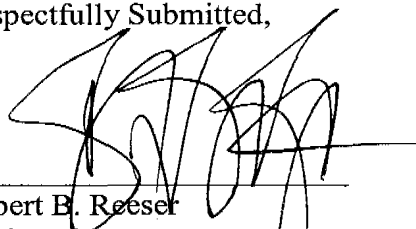
Applicants respectfully submit that Salvo does not describe nor suggest a web-based supply chain system as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Salvo does not describe nor suggest a database comprising historical business information relating to one of a turbine engine and a turbine engine component, a server comprising at least one business transactional application including a plurality of user interfaces associated with said at least one business transactional application, said server configured to prompt a user to enter business information relating to one of the turbine engine and the turbine engine component via at least one of said plurality of user interfaces, said server configured to store user inputs relating to one of a turbine engine and a turbine component in said database, prompt a user to access and retrieve said at least one business transactional application via a web page configured to provide access for a plurality of users internal to a business entity and to users external to the business entity to enable users to access data comprising at least one non-conformance that occurs during at least one of an assembly and test stage and a component manufacturing stage of a supply chain process, and prompt a user to select data relating to at least one of the turbine engine and the turbine engine component via said web page. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Salvo describes a system for managing inventory that includes automatically gathering information about the current inventory and deciding whether and when replacement inventory should be ordered. As such, Salvo does not describe nor suggest all of the claimed elements of the present invention. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salvo.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-8 likewise are patentable over Salvo.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B. Reeser
Registration No. 45,548
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070